

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**FAREWELL TO
OUR BRAVEHEARTS**
" YOU GAVE YOUR LIVES FOR OUR TOMORROW "



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 28. 11. 2024



222
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT

1. Thangtinmang Khongsai



360+
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425+
DISPLACED
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

LAMKA: 12 MARTYRS LAID TO REST WITH FULL HONOURS IN LAMKA

The 12 martyrs who were killed by the CRPF and the Meitei militants were laid to rest today with full honours at the Martyrs' Cemetery in Sehken Village, Churachandpur.

Before the mass burial at the Martyrs' Cemetery, a condolence service for the 12 martyrs was held at Peace Ground, Tuibong, where people from various walks of life paid their last respects to all the fallen heroes. A one-minute silence was also observed during the condolence service as a mark of respect and honour to the martyrs.

Coinciding with the day-long funeral programme, a total shutdown was observed in the town to pay respect to the deceased, with thousands of people joining the march and attending the ceremony.

"The bodies of the village volunteers, which were taken from the morgue to their respective homes the previous evening, were brought to the funeral programme in the morning," said Ginza Vualzong, the spokesperson of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a key organization of the Kuki-Zo community in Manipur.

A delegation from Mizoram, including Mizoram Chief Minister's Adviser and Central Young Mizo Association leaders, attended the event, he added.

They showed their respect by placing traditional shawls over the coffins of the martyrs. Other tribal leaders also paid their homage by covering the coffins with customary traditional shawls.

Among the various high-profile attendees at the condolence service was H. Ginzalala, MLA and Advisor to the Mizoram CM, who echoed unity among Zo brethren. In a heartfelt speech, the advisor extended condolences to the martyrs' families on behalf of the



Mizoram government. He also promised all possible assistance from the Mizoram government in the future for the Zo people of Manipur.

Rev. Dr. S. Vung Minthang, President of the Goodwill Council, offered condolence messages for the victim families. Afterward, the bodies of the martyrs were taken to the Martyrs' Cemetery in Sehken village, where they were finally laid to rest with full honours.

The entire funeral programme was divided into two sessions. The first began at 11 am at Peace Ground in Tuibong, where people from all spheres of society paid their respects. The second and final session took place at 2 pm at the Martyrs' Cemetery in Sehken, where the deceased were given a "gun salute by village volunteers," followed by the burial of the bodies. The families paid their

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last respects there.

The 12 men laid to rest were Elvis Lalropui (21), Joseph Lalditum (19), Lalthanel (22), Ruolnelsang (30), Fimlienkung (31), Lalsiemlien Hmar (30), Francis Lalzarlien (25), Ramnellien (31), Henry Lalsanglien (25), Robert Lalnuntloun (19), Haojoel Doungel (27), and Thangtinmang Khongsai (35).

All 12 bodies of Kuki-Zo youths were taken from the morgue on Wednesday afternoon and sent to their respective families for an overnight stay for the last time.

Among the 12 martyrs buried today, Haojoel Doungel was allegedly killed by Meitei militants on November 17 when he ventured out to seek financial assistance for his pregnant wife. He was waylaid, abducted by militants, and later killed, while Thangtinmang Khongsai sustained serious bullet injuries. He was treated at Aizawl Civil Hospital but later succumbed to his injuries. The remaining 10 were mercilessly killed by CRPF personnel on November 11.

The ITLF had earlier decided that the funeral of the Kuki-Zo youths would not be conducted until their post-mortem reports were handed over to the families.

After the bodies were airlifted from Silchar Medical College and Hospital in Assam to Churachandpur on November 16, they were kept in the Churachandpur District Hospital morgue until now.

Autopsy reports from Silchar Medical College and Hospital, located in the neighboring state of Assam, revealed that each of the deceased sustained multiple gunshot wounds from behind. This pattern of injury indicates that the young men were either fleeing or not directly engaging at the time they were fatally shot.

According to the reports, the bullets struck the young men from head to foot, hitting them all over

their bodies. If the young men were possibly fleeing or, at least, were not in a position to actively fire at the time, it raises questions about why the security forces needed to fire so many rounds with apparent lethal intent.

Further, the reports noted that one eye was missing from the bodies of four of the deceased.

For instance, the autopsy report of Fimlien Kung Ngurte states: "The deceased is found wearing a camouflage full shirt, T-shirt, long pants, black shawl, briefs, socks, and boots. The build is average, complexion swarthy. Right eye missing, left eye closed, and mouth partially open. Blood stains are present on the face and body at various places. Blood is oozing from the left ear. The body is cold to the touch. Post-mortem hypostasis is present and fixed over the back. Rigor mortis (the stiffening of the muscles) is partially present over the lower limbs only."

This suggests the eyes were gouged out after the four men had been killed. One must wonder what could motivate such a desecration of the bodies other than hate. Were the bodies not under the custody of CRPF personnel? Mutilation of bodies is a violation of international humanitarian law under the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit outrages upon personal dignity, particularly humiliating and degrading treatment.

All CRPF personnel undergo training in human rights, adhering to international standards both during their initial training and repeatedly after joining their battalions. They are also expected to follow the guidelines set by the National Human Rights Commission, the source added.

CoTU LIFTS SHUTDOWN ON BUSINESSES IN KANGPOKPI DISTRICT FOLLOWING CONSENSUS

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) has declared the lifting of the shutdown on business establishments in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District. The suspension of the shutdown will come into effect at midnight, following a consensus reached after extensive deliberations with civil society groups and a high-level dialogue with the Centre-deputed Director General of Police (DGP) of Manipur.

The decision aligns with a Public Appeal issued by the Manipur government on December 3, which urged for the restoration of public vehicular movement on critical routes, including Imphal-Kangpokpi-Senapati and Imphal-Bishnupur-Churachandpur.

CoTU spokesperson Ng. Lun Kipgen extended heartfelt gratitude to the public for their solidarity and resilience during what he described as “tumultuous times.” He emphasized that the shutdown served as a crucial platform for voicing the Kuki-Zo community’s grievances and underscored CoTU’s commitment to safeguarding their rights and dignity.

“The discussions with the DGP were lengthy but productive,” Kipgen remarked, noting the progress made in addressing the concerns of the Kuki-Zo community. He appealed to community members to



remain united and steadfast in their support for the movement toward a separate administration.

The shutdown, which had severely impacted economic activities in the region, was initially enforced to highlight the community’s dissatisfaction and press for immediate action. CoTU had previously warned of escalating protests should the government fail to reconsider its decision to resume public vehicular movement along the affected routes.

With businesses poised to resume operations, CoTU has reaffirmed its dedication to the broader cause and urged continued vigilance as the community strives for lasting solutions.



The people who have really made history are the martyrs.

— *Aleister Crowley*

KUKI-ZO BODY DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR 10 KUKI-ZO VOLUNTEERS KILLED BY CRPF; POLITICAL SOLUTION TO END MANIPUR VIOLENCE

As the Kuki-Zo people have paid their final tribute to the 12 Martyrs including 10 volunteers killed atrociously by CRPF, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident so that justice is served to them and their families.

The Forum, a conglomerate of recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur, also urged the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to start laying the groundwork for a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people under the aegis of the Indian constitution so that they can live a life free of discrimination and subjugation.

In a memorandum submitted to the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah (through DC Churachandpur) on Thursday, ITLF reminded the central government that it has been 19 months since the outbreak of the ethnic conflict in Manipur, with no signs of a return to normalcy and the minority Kuki-Zo community continuing to suffer at the hands of Meitei militants, the communal state government, and now at the hands of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

"It is no secret that each spate of violence in the past year started with unprovoked attacks on tribals for reasons best known to the state government, which is supporting Meitei militants who openly flaunt looted weapons in the streets of the capital and use them to attack tribal villages," said ITLF.

The latest round of violence, which started with the burning of Zairawn village in Jiribam district and the horrific murder of a 31-year-old tribal woman, has resulted in the deaths of 13 Kuki-Zo people. What makes this episode more worrying for the minority community is that 10 tribals were killed by the CRPF, which was supposed to act as a neutral force.

The post-mortem reports of the deceased clearly show that the men were shot from the back, proving that they were not engaged in a gunfight with security forces when they were gunned down. They were most likely



ambushed or murdered after being captured. Also, all of them were shot multiple times (some had more than a dozen bullet wounds, mostly entering from their back), raising further questions about the moral and ethical conduct of the paramilitary force in using such excessive lethal force. Four of the bodies were also desecrated, with each missing an eye, indicating that they were gouged out.

The Kuki-Zo body asked: What prompted the CRPF personnel to mutilate the bodies?

The tribal body alleged that in contrast to the atrocious killings of Kuki-Zo volunteers by CRPF, with the burning of Zairawn village just a few days before wherein Meitei militants brutally killed a mother of three children, the CRPF personnel who were stationed nearby refused to come out of their camp and failed to fire a single shot to thwart the assailants even though the attack lasted for over an hour.

The Memorandum, signed by Pagin Haokip, Chairman ITLF and Muan Tombing, Secretary ITLF, stated that it was a realization of the Kuki-Zo people's worst fears over the replacement of the Assam Rifles with the CRPF, which took place following demands made by the Meiteis, one of the communities involved in the conflict. "There are many Meitei officers in the CRPF, and we have repeatedly stressed our concern over the CRPF being deployed as a "neutral" force," it said.

The ITLF also stated that claims of the security

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forces where the 10 volunteers were militants and they died while attacking Borobekra police station and a nearby CRPF camp were blatantly false. “The men and the entire Kuki-Zo community had nothing to gain and everything to lose from attacking central security forces. We have repeatedly stressed that we would never attack central forces and have been demanding President’s Rule since the beginning of the conflict so that security forces can better enforce peace. It is the Meitei community that has consistently opposed President’s Rule,” it said.

None of the victims were militants, as claimed by the police. One was a painter, another a computer store owner, and the rest were masons who worked on construction sites when not being on duty at the frontlines.

In light of the available facts, ITLF demands a judicial inquiry into the deaths of the 10 Kuki-Zo volunteers so that justice is served to them and their families.

The Memorandum submitted to MHA also noted that the men were out on patrol to protect their fellow tribals because of the attack on Zairawn village by Meitei gunmen— a duty that the CRPF was supposed

to perform but failed.

In fact, this has been a recurring theme throughout the conflict—that the state, which is supposed to protect its citizens and enforce peace under the terms of the country’s social contract as a functioning democracy, has failed to perform its basic duty for the past 19 months, forcing normal citizens to procure arms with whatever little money they have and use it to defend themselves.

ITLF also urged CRPF that it should remind its men on the ground of its purpose and act as a neutral force from now on and stand firm against the designs and actions of the communal state government and sections of the majority community that are trying to carry out genocide against the minority Kuki-Zo tribes.

As for the path to lasting peace, Kuki-Zo body asserted, a militarily enforced tranquility cannot bring permanent normalcy to a state that is now physically divided by buffer zones. A political solution that will ensure physical safety and dignity for all citizens is the only way forward.

TENGNOUNAL: KUKI CSOs OPPOSE BORDER FENCING PLAN, CITE THREAT TO CULTURAL HERITAGE

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing the Kuki community in Tengenoual District have expressed staunch opposition to the proposed Indo-Myanmar border fencing, warning that it could lead to cultural and social erosion.

In a memorandum submitted to Union Home Minister Amit Shah through Manipur’s Tribal Affairs and Hills Minister Letpao Haokip, the CSOs argued that the fencing project threatens to sever ancestral ties and disrupt their way of life.

The memorandum highlighted that the Kuki-Zo people, who have lived along the Indo-Myanmar border for generations, fear being isolated from their cross-border kin and cultural networks. “The fencing isn’t just a physical barrier; it divides families, dismantles

traditions, and endangers a centuries-old heritage,” the statement declared.

Emphasizing their historical presence in the region, the CSOs called the fencing a violation of their ancestral rights. “Our existence predates artificial borders. This project disregards our identity and risks erasing our cultural essence,” they noted.

The Kuki-Zo CSOs have urged the central government to reconsider the project and explore alternative security measures that respect indigenous rights. “Security should not come at the cost of humanity and history. We appeal to the government to protect our heritage while ensuring national safety,” they added.



OPINION

The Jiribam Carnage: Long Live the 10 Kuki-Zo Jiri Martyrs!

MS George

India is a federal state. The legitimacy of Centre and state relations permits arrangement for Central and state forces to operate together, where necessary. However, in Jiribam, the incident of 10 Kuki volunteers, being shot on their backs, reveals flaws in the joint operation. The evidence is in the definitive Silchar Medical College Hospital autopsy, which was pending until receipt of the chemical analysis reports of viscera from the Directorate of Forensic Sciences (DFS), Guwahati ('Many gunshots, mostly on back, killed 10 Kuki youths in Manipur's Jiribam, reveal autopsy reports', DT NEXT, PTI 1 December 2024, <https://www.dtnext.in/news/national/many-gunshots-mostly-on-back-killed-10-kuki-youths-in-manipurs-jiribam-reveal-autopsy-reports-813349>); <https://thewire.in/government/10-kuki-zo-youths-killed-in-manipur-had-multiple-fatal-bullet-injuries-mostly-on-the-back-report>).

The 10 bodies were mostly riddled with multiple bullets shots on the back; additionally in 4, one eye from each was gouged. Curiously, although the incident described as 'encounter' occurred on the same date 11 November, the bodies were brought to SMCH, staggered: 6 on 12th, and 4 on 14th. This spells foul-play, which is typical where state forces figure: the volunteers were first rounded up, presumably while they were engaged in conversation with the CRPF, and the state forces shot them from behind.

Anomalies of the state forces' 'encounter' theory: Various individuals from the Meitei community often assert, 'Kukis never fire at the Indian Security Forces'; equally uncharacteristic is that the Kuki volunteers would expose themselves in an open field, other than in confidence of CRPF, to be shot in the back.

Analysis:

The supposed joint operation against the Kuki volunteers suggests possible naïveté of the one-month-old deployment of the CRPF battalion, and the explicit action of the state forces combined with Arambai Tenggol and UNLF(P) in Manipur Police uniform. The village volunteers did not have any axe to grind with the CRPF; they did with the state forces and co, who raped, butchered, and burnt the mortal remains of Zosangkim, a Junior High School teacher and mother of three children, at her home in Zairawm village, Jiribam on 7 November 2024.

Conclusion:

Since the state chief minister-sponsored genocide of Kukis on 3 May 2023, the state forces complicity, particularly in the valley, Imphal has been incontrovertible. Live video footages abound. The role of the Central Forces to safeguard the two warring communities on either side of the buffer

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zone has been exemplary. Ironically, the Assam Rifles, much criticized by the valley ethnic community for favouring the hill people have killed Kuki protesters in Lamka, never any Meitei protesters in Imphal.

The 'encounter' in Jiribam could not have happened with Kuki volunteers facing their backs to the CRPF. As on previous occasions, the incident is a repeat of state forces and Meitei radicals in Manipur Police uniform killing Kukis in the valley, and at Moreh, across the buffer zone. Eyes gouged out from the victims is a trade mark of the Arambai Tenggol, evident in mutilation of dead bodies on several occasions, emblematic of the Nongsha, a lion god in Sanamahism and Meitei mythology. The CRPF, who are professional soldiers would abide by the Geneva Convention and respect the dead, even an

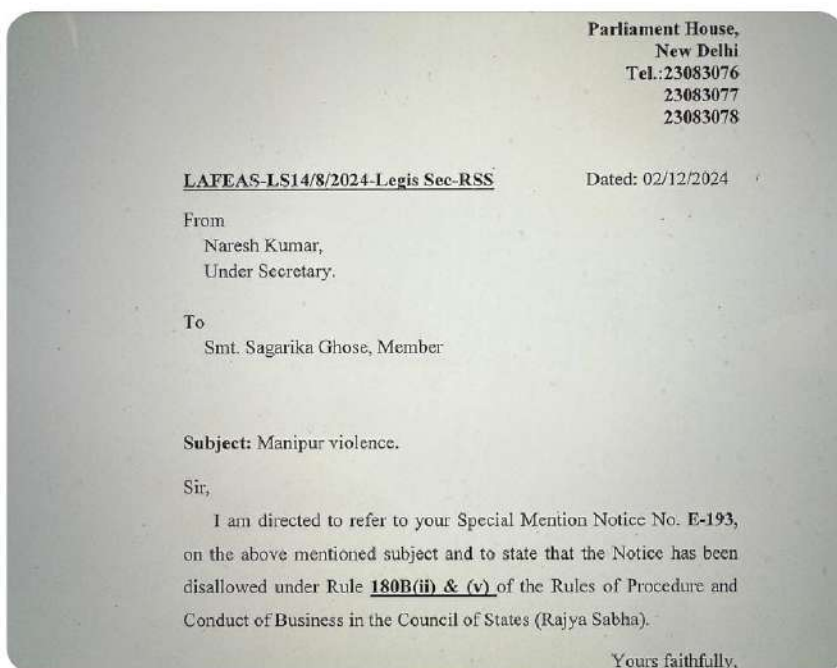
enemy, and not engage is such unprincipled and inhumane activity.

Lastly, the CRPF could not have simply been a bystander to the cowardly carnage had there not been a tacit nod from Premjit, the Meitei DIG. Backed by contrary irrefutable evidence, i.e. the autopsy report, the Manipur state police statement of 'encounter' falls flat. Clearly, heads must roll – question is whose head in this politically corrupt misgoverned failed state, Manipur?

(The writer is a social activist based in Lamka)



No mention of #ManipurCrisis allowed in Parliament. My Special Mention notice for a discussion on the suffering of the people of Manipur has been disallowed. Shameful. #ManipurUnderAttack #ManipurViolence



10:04 · 04 Dec 24 · 7,628 Views



A burial ceremony was held in Churachandpur under the aegis of the Joint Philanthropic Organisation (JPO) to honour the 12 Kuki-Zo youths who were killed in an encounter with the CRPF in Jiribam district.

#Manipur #ManipurAttack #JiribamEncounter #Burial #BurialCeremony #Northeast #IndiaTodayNE



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FAREWELL TO THE BRAVE

Today, we lay to rest, twelve brave Kuki-Zo martyrs
Who gave their lives for our tomorrow
From Tuibong to Sehken's hallowed ground
Thousands gather to bid farewell with tears

Tears fall for the loved ones lost
The memories attached, now the cost
Some are fathers, brothers, some are husbands
Others, sisters, friends, now lost to me and you

Their sacrifice will not be in vain
For they fought for a cause that will forever remain
A call for unity among our people strong
To stand resilient and right the wrong

Let their martyrdom, be a clarion call
To unite as one, and stand tall
For a separate administration, we must strive
With one voice, one heart, we'll reach the other side

We'll honor their memory, by standing as one
Our unity, will be the victory, we've yet to be won
So let us march forward with courage in our hearts
For the Kuki-Zo martyrs who played their part.

~ *JKK Mangboi Haokip*